GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6007
ANSWERED ON:31.08.2001
CONFERENCE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON WTO ISSUES
GADDE RAMAMOHAN;M.V.V.S MURTHI

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned `Spotlight on WTO issues` appearing in the `Hindu` dated August 9, 2001;

(b) if so, whether an international conference on WTO issues has been held at New Delhi by developing countries on August 20, 2001;

(c) if so, the details of discussions held at the conference;

(d) the views of various participants in the conference;

(e) the reaction of Indian Government thereto; and

(f) the final outcome of the conference?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. The International Conference on Concerns of Developing Nations in the WTO Regime was organised by The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India in collaboration with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties, Ministry of Commerce & Industry on 20th and 21st August, 2001 in New Delhi.

(c) : The issues discussed in the Conference inter-alia included:-

- Issues before the next Ministerial meeting at Doha.
- Anti-Dumping Duties - Major issues & Emerging Scenario for Developing Nations.
- Anti-Subsidy Laws - Developing Countries` concern for compatibility with WTO Agreements.

- Competition Law and Policy under open trade - Indian Perspective
- Emerging Competition in India, Developing Country Concerns with regard to Competition Policy

- Competition Rules in WTO & Developing Country concerns with regard to Competition Policy

- Business Services Under GATS - Effects & Approach
- Trade Related Intellectual Properties (TRIPs).
- Trade Negotiation Process - Overview of Emerging Issues
- Comments from Other Developing Countries & Industry

(d) & (f) : The Conference provided a platform for all concerned policy makers, administrators, executives, professionals from diversified fields, business managers, economists etc. to discuss and deliberate on key issues facing the country in general and industry in particular under the WTO Regime.It was felt that there is a need for developing countries to come together to protect their interest in the WTO Regime.